

## WHEREIN WE ARE NOT GREAT.

Senator Verner Directs Attention to Our Exceeding Smallness.

Columbia, Feb. 23.—Editor Keowee Courier: I have not seen The Courier to learn what became of my last letter, but I suppose it was published, because of letters and newspapers and clippings that have come to me since—one letter coming from North Carolina—all along one line—that of the suppression of crime.

This is the last letter that I will write you from Columbia, and I am going to devote from the usual lines of writing or speaking.

The main stock in trade with the average writer or speaker in this State as well as elsewhere, is to boast of the greatness of the State or States. "The great State of South Carolina" is heard so often in the State Senate that it has become such a contagion that even the chaplain is wont to repeat those words in prayer.

This thing has so impressed me that I have tried to see wherein we are so great. They tell us we have the record of the greatest yield of corn grown to the acre. What of it, when we are away toward the bottom of the list of States in the average?

They say we are a great manufacturing State. In what way? Certainly the appearance of many of the cotton mill villages does not give that impression.

They say we have virtuous women. I grant that one point is scored there, but that fact is obscured by the further fact that we have many houses of vice.

They say many other things, just to please some folks, but at least half of what you hear or read is not founded on fact.

Now, for the sake of variety, suppose we take a peep at the other side—wherein we are not great. By keeping my mouth shut and my eyes and ears open I have made these observations:

1. I think there is more vanity to the square inch in South Carolina than anywhere on this entire earth. The typical South Carolinian thinks the sun rises in Charleston and sets—if left to me—in Oconee county. The boundary line of this State is the horizon of his world; Columbia is his Mecca. If he should chance to look across the State line, it would be for a brief glance in the direction of Washington, D. C., faintly hoping that he might ultimately prove to be one of the "elect" and land in that holy of holies.

2. We have a universal, insatiable, uncontrollable propensity for making laws. This is evidenced by the fact that this winter no less than 1,500 bills have been urged as necessary to be added to the statutes of the State.

3. We have no respect for authority, but live in daily and open violation of the laws of this Commonwealth.

The first two observations are perhaps harmless. The third is deserving of more condemnation than any and all other matters now in the public mind—if, indeed, it can be in the public mind at all. So, whether we are proud of one thing I am certain. We are vain, self-centered, and to an alarming degree a lawless people.

We know good laws and make attempts to enforce some bad ones. When a man came home one day last winter I met a banker. He knew that I had taken an active part in killing a compulsory school attendance bill. He said that a young man came to his bank to borrow money; that he had to make his mark on the note—could not sign his name—and that was his reason for wishing to compel children to go to school. I asked him what rate of interest he charged the young man. He giggled about and finally stammered out 12 per cent. I asked him which he thought the greater enemy of this government—the rich man who stole from the poor or the poor man who, by reason of not stealing, was not able to send his child to school? I am still asking that question, and so far have had to answer it myself. It is not hard to answer. The usury law is a good one, but there is an elect class who appear to be above the law and they say no. This banker deliberately stole about \$5.00 from this man, and yet he wants to know what makes Biblesism.

Now we have one "powerful bad" law—that providing for the sale of whiskey. There is a lot of money spent endeavoring to enforce this law, and I could name a half dozen good laws that are utterly ignored and no attempt made to enforce them.

In the Senate recently I heard a Senator, in speaking of the lunatics in the asylum, refer to them as "those unfortunate people whom God in His wisdom had seen fit to afflict." That same man represents one of the wickedest places in this State, where liquor is sold in almost any quantity and of almost any quality. The wise ones tell us a great per cent of lunacy is caused by the use of whiskey. Now when you place liquor right in a man's way and really want him to buy it so as to raise revenue, he does buy, and drinks, and beats his wife, neglects his children and finally lands in the penitentiary or the asylum, do you think it fair to say that God had anything to do with that? It looks more like the work of the devil, and it looks to me that it is nothing short of blasphemy to say that God so afflicted those people.

I said we were a lawless people. Let me specify a little further: We have a law against carrying concealed weapons, yet sometimes the State seems to be a walking arsenal. The Attorney General but recently, accidentally killed a negro. He said he was taking the pistol to the club for safe-keeping. I knew they kept whiskey in the clubs, but I did not know it was a repository for fire-arms; but when you come to think of it one of these evils generally accompanies the other.

We have a law against selling cigarettes to minors; yet the first place in many a boy's trousers that gives out is the right leg, which he burns up striking matches to light cigarettes with. The trousers ought to be burnt a little further around and with another kind of burning apparatus. Then the man who sells to minors ought to be put on the road to work instead of paying a fine—what few times he is required to do anything—for violating a good law.

E. E. Verner.

## RICHLAND BOYS AND GIRLS.

Numbers Home for Week-End Make Community Merry.

Richland, Feb. 23.—Special: Miss Lola and Clark Wily spent several days the past week visiting their sister, Miss Cora, who is teaching school near Old Pickens.

E. W. Hughs went to Greenville Saturday and stood the civil service examination for railway mail clerk. Misses Pauline and Christine Anderson, of Winthrop, spent from Friday until Monday at the home of their aunt, Mrs. S. N. Hughs. They were accompanied by their roommate, Miss Mary Butler, an attractive young lady of Greenville. They leave this afternoon to spend the night in Greenville before returning to their studies.

Roger Coe, of Clinton, spent the week-end at the home of his mother, Mrs. S. H. Coe, returning Tuesday morning.

Stiles Stribling spent Saturday and Sunday at home. He was accompanied by his cousin, Fred Stribling.

E. W. Hughs left yesterday afternoon for a week's visit to his brother, J. M. Hughs, in Wilmington, N. C.

Rev. W. McS. Buchanan, a returned missionary from Japan, made a very interesting talk at Richland church yesterday morning. He described the Japanese and their customs, told of their superstitions and dwelt upon the outlook or the future of the Japanese if they are given the Gospel now. After services were over he showed a number of articles of dress, pictures of the volcanoes and various other things.

The entertainment announced for Friday night has been postponed. The committee ordered a play to work up, but it hasn't come and after a second order arrives it will be too late to prepare it by Friday night, but will be prepared and given in a few weeks, the time to be announced later.

Miss Ruth Berry was the charming hostess to a number of her friends at her home Saturday evening at a "stunt party" in honor of the college students. The roads were too muddy for walking, so Charles Verner kindly furnished a wagon and most of the guests left by that means. Upon their arrival they were received by Miss Beulah Berry. All were seated and enjoyed pleasant conversation, when the hostess had the guests to perform. The girls had to make a cob pipe, crochet a watch chain, draw a picture of a man with the cob pipe, take off a boy the first time he went calling, etc. Miss Butler, of Greenville, being a visitor, read her will of the things she would leave for the young men. These ranged from a talking machine to "her good looks." The boys had to trim a girl's hat, sing a trio, read a love letter, take off the girl waiting for her first caller, and telling the truth. Charlie Verner was presented with a miniature pup for his truthfulness. These "stunts" being over, partners were drawn and all retired to the dining room, where a delightful sweet course was enjoyed and marshmallows toasted. In the parlor again, the Winthrop girls forgot themselves and gave their college songs and yells.

The Clemson boys tried to keep pace, but were outnumbered and outlasted by the Winthrop group. Miss Mary Berry was asked to play and several songs were sung before the guests departed at 11.30. Ten couples were present and all had a fine time. Those present were: Misses Pauline and Christine Anderson, Mary Butler, Beth Coe, Cornelia Foster, Annie McMahan, Julia Davis, Freddie Hughs, Rosine Singley and Lynn Verner; Messrs. Dean Davis, Henry Hughs, T. S. Hubbar, Edgar McMahan, Ryland Shelt, Stiles, Fred and Bruce Stribling and Charles Verner.

### Hail Storm in Missouri.

St. Louis, Feb. 22.—Hail began to fall throughout Missouri late today and by night had coated the ground in many places with more than an inch of ice. The storm was accompanied by a 30-degree drop in temperature. The local weather bureau predicted the mercury would be near the zero point by morning.

### Advertised Mail.

The following is a list of letters remaining uncalled for in the Walhalla post office for the week ending February 23d, 1914:

Cairrell, Miss Bessie; Hunt, Jas.; Knecht, Mrs. F. C.; Thomas, Mrs. Helen.

When calling for the above please say they are advertised.

N. Fant, P. M.

### Coneross Farmers' Union.

The next regular meeting of Coneross Local Farmers' Union will be held at the club house on Saturday, February 28th, at 2 o'clock p. m. sharp. As important business is to be considered, every member is urged to attend promptly.

F. H. Burley, Secretary.

## THE WALHALLA HIGH SCHOOL.

Literary Societies Elect Officers—Additions to Library—Honor Roll.

The Issaquena Literary Society held a very interesting meeting on Friday, February 6th. The query for debate was: "Resolved, That there should be a law prohibiting the employment of children under sixteen in factories." Those who spoke on the affirmative were: Maggie Abbott, Lucy Brandt, Linnie Cudd and Luther Davis; on the negative, Minnie Barker, Gladys Burley, Ettie Cobb and Mason DuPre. The judges decided in favor of the negative.

Officers were elected to serve for three months as follows: President, Maggie Abbott; vice president, Myrtle Brown; secretary, Tabitha Stribling; literary critic, Helen Lewis; orderly critic, Minnie Barker.

Other literary societies have elected officers as follows:

Palmetto (7th grade)—President, Alice Belle McLees; vice president, Robert Rogers; secretary, Holleman Seaborn; treasurer and orderly critic, Mrs. Probst.

Calhoun (6th grade)—President, Richard Earle; vice president, Mildred Carter; secretary, Maggie Ray Burley; orderly critic, Bryan Mulkey.

Wagener (5th grade)—President, Annie Wilson; vice president, Birdie Rimrod; secretary, Eunice White; monitor, Frank Craig; critic, Frank Davis.

Timrod (4th grade)—President, Elsie Fretwell; vice president, Caroline Ansel; secretary, Frances Kaufmann; orderly critic, Marvin Finkensadt.

The members of the senior class have purchased attractive class rings. The ring shows a seal with the letters, W. H. S., in a circle. In the center of the seal is a raised triangle with the class numerals, '14.

The county oratorical contest has been postponed until March 27th and will be held in Walhalla, if seats for the auditorium are placed before that time. If not, the contest will be held in Westminster again. Ansel Umberger, of the ninth grade, will represent the Walhalla High School in the contest.

The Walhalla Presbyterian Sunday school has donated several volumes to the school library, for which the school is greatly indebted. This donation increases the number of volumes in the library to 500.

### The Honor Roll

for the month ending Friday, February 13th, is as follows:

10th Grade—Luther Davis 93, Idah Pitchford 97, Tabitha Stribling 94.5.

9th Grade—Grace Beard 96.8, Ethel Davis 92.6, Mason DuPre 92.7, Ansel Umberger 95.1.

8th Grade—Marvin Burley 91, Salie Hunt 90.6, Julia Kaufmann 92.1, Sarah Moss 90.3.

7th Grade—Inez Douthit 97.6, Carrie D. Harrison 93.4, Mildred Moore 94.8, Holleman Seaborn 94.2, Lucile White 96.1.

6th Grade—Mildred Carter 92.4, Alice Colton 91, Lillian McCaulley 90, William Stribling 91, Annie Stribling 92.

5th Grade—Annie Busch 94, Dorrell Darby 91, Leonard Stribling 91, Annie Wilson 95, Eunice White 95.

4th Grade—Willie Brandt 93.3, Ross Umberger 94.1, Carolyn Rogers 92.2, Eugenia Moss 92.1, Caroline Ansel 92, Paul Hunt 90.6, Willie Klaren 90.3, Henry Klaren 90.2.

3d Grade—None.

2d Grade—Henry Brandt 90.9, Louise Brandt 94, Carrie Burnside 93.8, Grace Brown 96, Sarah Craig 92.6, Greta Douthit 95.8, Dargan Hutchison 92, Lillian Pitchford 91, Clare Sloan 93.2.

1st Grade—Caroline Darby 93.6, Elizabeth Thode 92.3.

### Oakway Local Notes.

Oakway, Feb. 23.—Special: Cadets Joe Wilson and Walter Mears, of Clemson, spent Sunday in Oakway.

Miss Laura Smithson, of Westminster, is visiting friends at Oakway.

Miss Mildred Bearden, of Westminster, spent the week-end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bearden.

Miss Bessie Bruce is visiting in Townville.

On Monday evening the young people of Oakway gave Miss Ploma Martin a very pleasant surprise party.

On Saturday evening Miss Ila Bearden charmingly entertained a number of young people at a Washington party. The house was tastefully decorated in flags, bunting and other appropriate emblems, and when filled with young people presented a very pretty scene. Several hands of progressive ruck were enjoyed, and later a guessing contest, in which Revolutionary generals figured, was the feature. A delicious sweet course was served by Misses Kate Gambrell, Elsie King and Mildred Bearden.

Those enjoying Miss Bearden's hospitality were: Misses Hutton and Foster, of South Union; Smithson, of Westminster; Hannah Harrison, Neta Brown, Ethel Reese, Mary Bobo, Maude Garner, Messrs. L. Grace Sheldon, Henry Verner, W. Bearden, Rion Mason, Irby Taylor, Gilie Brown, Will Bruce, Jas. Harrison, W. C. Langston, and Dr. Brown, of Westminster.



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Murray Held License No. 13. Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 18.—The engine of the speed boat which rushed to the spot where Lieut. J. McM. Murray fell with an aeroplane was the engine saved from the wreck of the aeroplane that fell into Chesapeake Bay last summer and killed Ensign Billingsley. Lieut. Murray held aviator's license No. 13.

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# Moss & Ansel,

## Walhalla, S. C.

### Jenkins-King Marriage.

Westminster, R. F. D. Feb. 23.—Special: Last Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock Miss Gracia Jenkins and Joe King were quietly married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jenkins, Rev. M. M. Brooks officiating. The room was prettily decorated in white and green. The wedding march was played by Mrs. Clifton King while the couple slowly entered the room and took their stand under a large bell of white and green. The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Jenkins, and is one of Hope-well's most popular young ladies. She looked very pretty on this occasion in a pretty coat suit of gray. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Earle King, of Taber, a very popular young man of high standing. This happy couple have many friends who extend their best wishes for a most happy and successful life.

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